

# Organised gang of muggers active on DU campus

KAMRUL HASAN KHAN

An organised gang of muggers has remained active on and around the Dhaka University (DU) campus, but the law enforcement agencies have remained inactive.

The gang robs students, teachers, pedestrians and others of valuables after injuring them almost every day.

The gang has been continuing its operation since the tenure of the BNP-led four-party alliance government, but its members, numbering about 15, have not been staying on the campus since the state of emergency has been imposed.

After sundown, the muggers rule several places on the campus, including Fuller Road, Chankharpool to Doel Square, Shaheed Minar area, Institute of Education and Research (IER), Suhrawardy Udyan, Muhsin Hall playground and areas adjacent to Saimullah Muslim Hall.

Intelligence sources said the criminals take away mainly mobile phones, money and gold ornaments at gunpoint at night.

They also target couples gathering on the campus after the evening, taxicab drivers and rickshawpullers.

Residents of the university area said the taxicab drivers and rickshawpullers want to avoid the area after the evening.

Shahbagh police filed three cases in connection with muggings that took place on the campus on May 8, 9 and 23.

Intelligence sources and residents of the university dormitories said mainly junior leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) are involved in drug peddling and mugging.

"Some drug-addicted students and outsiders residing in Zahurul Huq Hall and Jagannath Hall are also involved in mugging and drug peddling," said Akter Morshed, a sub-inspector of Shahbagh Police

Station.

He said the police arrested Titu, Sayed and Jasim from Zahurul Huq Hall and Sanjib from Jagannath Hall on charge of selling drugs in the hall recently.

Sources said several JCD activists are involved in selling pethidine and heroin. They bring the painkilling injection from Mitford area to sell on the campus while heroin is brought from Bogra and Jessore and Phensidyl from Akhaura in Brahmanbaria.

The gang had used the hawkers and vendors to sell the drugs, but as they were evicted from the campus recently, the homeless people who stay on pavements on the campus are being used in drug peddling and mugging.

Intelligence sources said the members of the mugging syndicate reside in Lalbagh area and engage the street children in mugging.

Although mugging incidents take place almost everyday, only a few

cases are filed with the police, they said.

As drugs are available in certain places on the campus, it is easy for many students to become addicts. In most cases, the drug addicted students resort to mugging to get money for the drugs.

On May 30, the authorities of Zahurul Haq Hall expelled a resident, Toufique Islam Russell, as he is a drug addict.

Most looted mobile phone sets are sold to a certain cellphone shop at Hatirpool, a source linked to the mugging syndicate said.

When contacted, DU Proctor Prof AKA Firoz Ahmed said the university authorities depend on law enforcement agencies for maintaining law and order on the campus.

"We have asked the police to reinforce their vigilance on the campus."



PHOTO: PID

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed addresses the inaugural session of a three-day conference of the deputy commissioners at his office in the city yesterday.

## 'Torture, socio-economic disparity lead to crime, corruption'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights activists and academics yesterday said tortures and socio-economic disparity in the society lead to crimes, corruption and extremism, which are threats to democracy and harmonious coexistence.

Addressing the issues like tortures and poverty, therefore, is an urgent issue, they said at the concluding ceremony of a three-day training course on management of torture survivors.

Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors (CRTS) and Department of Psychiatry, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) jointly organised the programme at WVA auditorium in the city.

"There are many socio-economic classes where power is being abused and mainly the poor are subjected to such abuses," said former adviser to caretaker government Advocate Sultana Kamal while speaking as the chief guest.

Violence at domestic levels on the women is not recognised, she said, adding that this non-recognition also creates non-transparency, a major element of corruption.

For example, she said, many women are tortured at domestic level, but as there is no legal recognition of such violence, their lawyers advise them to file a dowry case. "These abuses happen just because of non-recognition of tortures."

Management of the torture survivors therefore is very impor-

tant, said Advocate Sultana Kamal, also executive director of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), adding that a person can be adamant to go astray if one feels insecure.

Speaking as a special guest, Bangladesh Economic Association General Secretary Professor Abul Barakat said economic empowerment and change in mindset are major factors for the women to eliminate all sorts of violence against them.

Demanding an increase in the budgetary allocation, he said a national movement should be waged against women violence and all sorts of 'fatwa' (religious edict).

Referring to a study, Professor Abul Barakat said a total of 23 lakh women are subjected to tortures annually that require health, counselling and legal intervention, while a government statistics said the number was only more than 11,000 last year.

He, however, lamented that the Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper do not care for addressing the issue of violence against women. "National movement therefore is the only answer."

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Assistant General Secretary Dr Maleka Banu said the women who are actually the partners of development are being deprived of playing their due role in the society.

Ninety percent of the victims are women, she said, suggesting a comprehensive approach to address such victims.

CRTS General Secretary Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan demanded

formation of a human rights commission immediately and creating mass awareness about tortures.

Health Rights and Research Foundation Chairperson Professor Nazmun Nahar also spoke at the ceremony presided by Professor Abdus Sobhan, chairman, Department of Psychiatry, BSMMU.

## Singaporean lady arrested for cheating Garo people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Immigration police yesterday arrested a Singaporean woman, Dolly Devi, who allegedly swindled nearly half a crore taka from 46 Garo people tempting them with lucrative jobs in hotels and restaurants in Singapore.

After the arrest at Zia International Airport (ZIA) on her way to Singapore, the Immigration police handed Dolly to Gulshan Police Station (PS). The victims earlier filed a general diary with Gulshan PS.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Abdul Jalil told The Daily Star at 8:30pm last night that the cheated Garos were about to file a case against the lady last night.

"We had information that Dolly Devi might leave the country. We therefore instructed the Immigration police to be alert about the lady's departure. They accordingly arrested her," the SP said.

Earlier at a press conference, the Garo Christians said Dolly used to go to the Nangrima Christian Garo Church at Kalachandpur at Baridhara in the city in early 2004 and developed a relationship with the local Garo Christians.

She expressed her wish to arrange employment at Singapore hotels and restaurants for the floating Garos in Dhaka. Believing the words of the lady, each of the 46 Garos gave over Tk 1 lakh, but finally they were cheated, Bijoy Richil said in a written speech.

## Seminar on lightning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pre-monsoon thunderstorms take place in the country in March, April and May and the lightning strikes different places in some 19 days during the period, causing huge loss of lives and damage to properties.

Dr Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, a professor of physics at Jahangirnagar University, said this while presenting the keynote paper at a seminar in the city yesterday.

The seminar on 'The basics of lightning and its status in Bangladesh' was organised by Nadir International in association with Applications Technologicas.

"Bangladesh is one of the thunderstorm prone area in the South Asian region and over hundred people are killed, several hundreds injured and many properties damaged by lightning. So research on thunderstorm and lightning is essential to reduce the loss of human lives as well as properties," Dr Abdul Mannan said.

"From the last two years' data, it is found that, on an average, lightning casualties are more than one hundred and May is the highest period of lightning death and injuries. In central Bangladesh, the most likely time of thunderstorm occurrence is early afternoon or evening while in the north it is either night or early morning," he pointed out.

Jean Paul Navarro, export manager of Applications Technologicas, Spain, presented another keynote paper on lightning protection.

## Licences of 10 Hajj agencies cancelled for irregularities

UNB, Dhaka

The government has so far cancelled the licences of 10 Hajj agencies and suspended that of 15 others for one to two years on charges of mismanagement and irregularities in last year's Hajj.

The government has also fined 38 agencies from Tk 30,000 to Tk 2 lakh and issued warning notices to 17 others for the same reasons, said a handout yesterday.

Religious Affairs Ministry has conducted investigations against the accused Hajj agencies in the wake of widespread allegations of cheating and misbehaviour with, harassment of pilgrims and irregularities and mismanagement during last year's Hajj," the handout said.

It said the ministry took the legal actions against the agencies as the allegations brought against them were proved in the investigations.

## ARMS CASE 5 arrestees on 2-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The five miscreants, arrested on Tuesday with firearms and huge ammunition from an abandoned rubber factory, were placed on a two-day remand yesterday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Moksedur Rahman granted the remand after the arrestees were produced before the court yesterday morning while police sought five days of remand, sources said.

Police in a raid on Tuesday seized seven firearms, 263 rounds of bullets and arrested five people from Bangladesh Chemical Complex (pvt) Limited owned by industrialist Engineer Alfaruddin Chowdhury, a leader of Chittagong South District Awami League, in Nasirabad Industrial area under Bayezid Station.

Meanwhile Mati Lal Debnath, a former security guard of the factory, gave a confessional statement to the Magistrate Moksedur Rahman yesterday as a witness of the seizure of the weapons.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Bayezid PS Kazi Matul Islam said they will continue their operation for more ammunition and firearms, if any, according to the information they would retrieve from the arrestees during remand.

## Akram Khan's anniversary of birth today



The 138th birth anniversary of Maulana Mohammad Akram Khan will be observed today, says a press release.

Sangbadik

Sangstha has chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day. The unit committees of the Sangstha will hold memorial meetings and seminars throughout the country.

On the occasion, a discussion will also be held at the auditorium of Dhaka Taxes Bar Association at 5:00pm today.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Farida Akhter, wife of former attorney general late Aminul Haque, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at a city hospital on Tuesday at the age of 65.

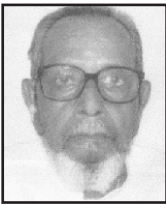
Farida, former associate professor of Bangla Department of Jagannath University, is survived by her two sons, two brothers and two sisters.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Aeroplane Mosque at Elephant Road in the city after Zohr prayers today. She will be buried at the new Azimpur Graveyard.

Her qulhwani will be held at her residence at 25 Elephant Road in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the janaza and the qulhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Shah Mohammad Israil Haq



Shah Mohammad Israil Haq, a retired government official, passed away due to old age complications on Tuesday at the age of 90, says a

press release.

He left behind his five sons and two daughters to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Banani Jame Mosque in the city after Juma prayers tomorrow.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his residence at House No # 59, Road No # 25, Block # A at Banani in the city after Asr prayers on June 9.

## ARMS CASE AGAINST HUDA SC rejects govt petition

UNB, Dhaka

Upholding the High Court order staying for three months the proceedings of an arms case against former communications minister Nazmul Huda, the Supreme Court yesterday rejected the government petition seeking leave-to-appeal against the stay order.

Upon a petition, the High Court on May 22 passed the interim stay order and issued a rule upon the government to explain why the case pending with the lower court should not be quashed.

After hearing both the sides, a full bench of the Appellate Division yesterday rejected the government plea.

Dhanmondi police filed the case against Huda, now in jail, on March 8.

## Trekking club executives

An ad hoc executive committee of Bangla Mountaineering and Trekking Club (BMTC) was formed recently at a general meeting of BMTC, says a press release.

The office-bearers are Chairman: Enayetullah Khan, Vice Chairman: Enam Ul Haq, General Secretary: Musa Ibrahim, Treasurer: MA Muhit, Secretary (Expedition, Planning and Training): Sajal Khaled and Club Secretary: Riaz Ahmed. Members are Nur Mohammad, Walid Ashraf Gini and Nishat Majumdar.



PHOTO: STAR

Prof M Firoz Ahmed speaks at a seminar titled "Climate change: Our preparation" organised by Bangladesh Parishesh Andolon (Bapa) at the National Press Club in the city yesterday to mark the World Environment Day. On his right is Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad and on his left is Coast Trust President Aminur Rasul. (Story on Page 3)

## Foreign cigarettes worth Tk 58 lakh seized, 16 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized cigarettes of different foreign brands worth Tk 58 lakh and arrested 16 people raiding a number of shops at Gulshan in the city yesterday.

Two teams of Rab conducted the three-hour raid simultaneously from 1:00pm at different shops in Gulshan-1 and 2. They searched through the showroom and warehouse of the shops and seized the cigarettes of seven to eight foreign brands including Marlboro and Benson & Hedges.

The cigarettes were being sold illegally and brought into the country without paying any tax. Six officials from the Department of Tax were also present during the raid.

Earlier, the law enforcers kept the area under intelligence surveillance to identify the shops selling cigarettes evading tax.

"We get the cigarettes from 'Baggage Party', persons who return home from abroad," said owner of a raided shop.

The shop owners also mentioned names of several people who supply the cigarettes to them.

### WEATHER TODAY

#### Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna division in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Southwest monsoon has swept over Chittagong division and it may sweep over rest of the country next 2-3 days, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sathkhira and lowest 22.0 degree Celsius at Tangail and Bogra.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6.44pm today and rises at 5:10am tomorrow.**

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.8	22.4	94	76
Chittagong	31.5	22.8	75	76
Rajshahi	33.4	22.8	88	76
Khulna	35.0	23.5	82	96
Barisal	32.0	--	--	83
Sylhet	31.8	24.5	79	69
Cox's Bazar	32.3	25.0	91	83

### DHAKA TODAY

#### Seminar on human languages

Linguistics Society of Bangladesh will hold a seminar on 'Cognitive aspects of human languages'. Venue: Arts Building, Dhaka University. Time: 11:00am.

#### Seminar on climate change

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies and others will hold a seminar on 'Responses to climate change: Bangladesh perspective'. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall. Time: 3:00pm.

#### Seminar on molecules

Bangladesh Academy of Sciences organises a seminar on 'How lasers make molecules dance'. Venue: Physics auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 10:00am.

#### Bdnews24 seminar

Bdnews24.com, a online newspaper, will hold a seminar titled 'In tune with the times'. Venue: East West University, Mohakhali. Time: 4:30pm.

#### Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a research book titled 'Charland in Bangladesh, political economy of

## Youth found dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bullet-hit body of a shoe-store employee was recovered by police yesterday at Dhanmondi area in the city.

The deceased was identified as Shakil Bepari, 17, of Katusur under Mohammadpur. He was working at a shoe store at Elephant Road.

Dhamnodi police recovered Shakil's body from the Jafraabad near a factory in the morning and

sent it to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Morgue sources said they found a bullet in his head.

Abdul Kuddus, maternal uncle of Shakil, said Shakil has been missing since Tuesday night around 11:00pm when he went to his grandfather, Abdul Khaleq's neighbouring house to sleep after having his dinner at his house.

Police and family sources could not provide further information about the murder.

## Call to close ranks to revive past glory FFs to form new platform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muktijoddha Gono Parishad, a freedom fighters' organisation, yesterday urged the freedom fighters and patriotic people to be united to make an alternative force to regain previous glory of the land.

The leaders said a true alternative political force will emerge if the modern and positive ideas are combined with the freedom fighters' patriotism, achievement and experience.

They also said they will soon form a platform with the freedom fighters in leadership to give a direction to the nation.

The Parishad organised the press conference titled 'It is the freedom fighters' birthright to take part in running the state' at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city.

While reading out a written speech, Sadek Ahmed Khan, secretary general of the Parishad, said the successive 'corrupt' rulers and the politicians in the last 36 years have destroyed all the

achievements of the liberation war. "We will soon form a platform with the freedom fighters, who were not involved in the ill-politics and plunder in the last 36 years, and the patriotic people with us to fight for our rights and to give a direction to the nation," he said.

"Closing the ranks, we want to be united to revive the country's lost glory," he said, adding, "The people will also stand beside us if we work together."

Replying to a question, he said, "We are exchanging views and keeping in touch with other freedom fighters' organisation in this regard."

Mashrurul Haque Siddique, Bir Uttam, said, the freedom fighters have been used politically and the division among them has made the ground for plundering.

Language Veteran Abdul Matin, Parishad President Ishtiaq Aziz Ulfat, Vice President M Shahid Bablu and freedom fighters from different districts also spoke.